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ABSTRACT

A statistical analysis of 3,170 entries in the Kotelova and Sorokin dictionary "Novyje slova i znacenija: slovar'-spravocnik po materialam pressy i literatury 60-x godov," Moscow, 1973 and the Stejnfel'dt dictionary "Castotnyj slovar' sovremennogo Russkogo Literaturnogo Jazyka," Moscow, n.d. establishes a clear-cut correlation between the new words by grammatical category and the distribution of words in use in Russian in the sixties. Four of the thirteen categories identified by the Stejnfel'dt analysis prove to be productive according to the Kotelova and Sorokin work: nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. The results are presented in two statistical tables and one chart. (Author)

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On the Distribution of Productive Categories in Russian of the 60's

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The availability of two recent publications in Russian makes it possible to begin a study of the distribution of productive categories in the Russian language of the sixties. In addition to simply describing the distribution of productive categories, I pose the question of the existence of some correlation between the distribution of new words by grammatical category and the distribution of words in use in Russian by grammatical category. Both questions are answered by a comparison of the two books.

The first book is the Novyje slova i značenija: slovar'-spravočnik po materialam pressy i literatury 60-x godov, which was edited by Kotelova and Sorokin, published by Sovetskaja Enciklopedija in Moscow 1973. According to the introduction, printed materials intended for mass distribution were used as the source for the dictionary. The list of sources given in the dictionary is not a complete listing but it includes twenty-four newspapers and magazines which are mentioned specifically and these include "pravda", Izvestija, Literaturnaja gazeta, Novyj mir, Junost', Ogonjok, Nauka i žizn', and Sovetskij sport and others. The introduction also indicates that the texts that served as source for the years 1965,1966 and 1967 were analyzed exhaustively, while texts relating to 1963, 1964 and 1968 were partially analyzed. The dictionary represents quite clearly new words in the Russian language of the sixties.

The dictionary gives a complete listing and entry for each new word and indicates not only the part of speech, but gender, declension and/or conjugation patterns as well as a definition and at least one citation. In many instances there are more than one citation. The dictionary is very well done and is exciting reading. I found it difficult not to get side-tracked in musing about the sociological implications of some of the new words. Let me simply say that the dictionary gives a complete listing for each new word.

There are 3,170 such entries. Twenty-nine of these are cross-reference listings. Two hundred sixty-five entries bear an asterisk indicating that the word itself is not new to the Russian language, but it has acquired a new meaning. For the sake of this study I have omitted the cross-referenced entries and the asterisked entries. A separate study of the entries bearing the asterisk might give us an insight into the ways in which old words acquire new meanings in Russian, but I have not attempted such an analysis here. This leaves 2,876 new words in the Russian language of the sixties.

Results of my analysis of the 2,876 new words listed in the Kotelova and Sorokin dictionary are presented in figure 1. In figure 1 I have listed the numbers of new words according to the part-of-speech categories given in the body of the dictionary entries.

If you look at figure 1 you will see that there are 1,930 NOUNS, which account for 67.11 % of the new words, and that these new nouns appear in all three genders, with masculine nouns accounting for 54.25 % of the new nouns, feminine nouns making up 33.11 % of the new nouns, neuter nouns accounting for only 6.74 % of new nouns, and indeclinable nouns go to make up 3.52 % of new nouns in the Russian language of the sixties. There are 37 plural nouns which, because of the declension and meaning cannot be associated with only one gender. There are also 9 nouns of the adjectival type, like stolovaja which should probably be listed together with the feminines. To put it in simpler terms, for every new indeclinable noun in Russian there are two new neuter nouns, ten new feminine nouns and about eighteen new masculine nouns. Solely in numerical terms, masculine wins.

In analyzing the nouns I have made a rough division within each gender on the basis of declensional type. My study was not sufficiently detailed to produce concrete results, but can indicate an area in which further work might be done. Eight of the 1,047 new masculine nouns are -ij desinence,

and these are essentially the names of eight new chemical elements recently discovered and named, such as Einsteinium. There is a tremendous amount of material here for a study of the role played by diminutive desinences in this category. Within the feminine noun group, more than half of the new nouns belong to the -ija and -ost' desinence groups, and these are generally abstract nouns. Within the neuter noun group, more than 88 % belong to the -vo and -ije desinence patterns, again, usually abstract nouns. From this rough analysis it seems that new neuter nouns are most likely to be abstract and that the new feminine nouns are just as likely to be abstract as concrete. My guess is that the masculine nouns are predominantly concrete.

Still referring to figure 1, we find that there were 789 new adjectives, accounting for 27.43 % of the new words, and only three of these belong to the so called soft pattern. Since these are not essentially new words, but are compounds based on already existing soft adjectives, it may be fair to say that soft adjective is not a productive category for Russian of the sixties, but hard adjective is. The three soft ones are: srednemnogoletnij, srednepozdnij, and sredneranniy.

Looking at figure 1 again we find one hundred thirty new verbs accounting for 4.52 % of the new words in the Russian language of the sixties. The verbs are distributed in the approximate ratio of on reflexive verb for every three non-reflexive verbs. Clearly, both categories are productive.

Twenty-seven adverbs make up the fourth and final category of new Russian words, and these account for slightly less than one per cent of the new words.

The second book is Častotnyj slovar' sovremennogo Russkogo Literaturnogo jazyka, Izdatel'stvo ' Progress, Moskva, no date, by E. Štejnfel'dt. It is also titled Russian Word Count: 2500 words most commonly used in modern literary Russian, Progress Publishers, Moscow, no date by E. Steinfeldt, translated by V. Korotky. The foreword states that it was prepared during the period 1959-1962 at the Pedagogical Research Institute of the Esthonian SSR. As such, it represents the state of Russian at the end of the fifties and the beginning of the sixties, a period only several years prior to the period covered by the Kotelova and Sorokin Dictionary. The source of the study was a total of 350 texts of approximately equal length. The radio broadcasts, short novels and short stories by Soviet writers and also the essays from the magazine "Yunost'" were analyzed selectively, 1000 words from each text; the newspapers were analyzed from beginning to end; a number of issues of the newspapers "Komsomolskaya Pravda," Molodyozh Estoniji" and Pionerskaya Pravda" were selected, each issue being analyzed completely. The plays were analyzed selectively, 2,000 words from each text. The result was a grand total of 400,000 words. 12,789 words (or 3.20% of the corpus) were proper names and these were discarded, leaving 387,211 word uses for the basis of the study.

A footnote should be added here questioning the wisdom of discarding so large a part of the corpus without any explanation at all. It would have been interesting to have had the chance to see what relation there is between patterns within the categories of proper names and the patterns displayed as a result of the analysis of the remaining corpus.

However, returning to the body of the Russian Word Count, the 387,211 word uses which served as the corpus of the analysis turns out to represent 24,224 independent words. These were broken down according to thirteen traditional categories. They are: Nouns, Adjectives, Numerals, Pronouns, Verbs, Participles, Verbal Adverbs, Adverbs, Parenthetic Words, Particles, prepositions,

Conjunctions and Interjections. The thirteen categories are presented in several tables in the Štejnfel'dt book, but are summed up in table 3 on page 18 of the book.

Looking now at my figure 2 you will see that I have presented a summary of Štejnfel'dt's table 3 entitled "Word Uses According to Parts of Speech", in columns one and two. The thirteen categories have been re-ordered to correspond with the order presented in subsequent Stejnfel'dt tables. Columns three and four list the new words from the Kotelova and Sorokin dictionary according to the categories in Štejnfel'dt. It is immediately clear that nine of the Štejnfel'dt categories are not productive. This is not surprising. Russian already has all the numerals one can think of, and unless the language develops the dual categories again, it probably has all the pronouns possible. I suppose one might expect a new preposition every now and then, but the prepositional system in Russian is quite complete now. I will stop making comments of this nature for the moment lest you think I am being facetious. On the other hand, by looking to see what the new words are, rather than by guessing a priori what they could be, we can eliminate some work. Having looked, it may seem obvious that we found what we did.

To conclude the first part of the problem I would simply state that there were four productive categories in Russian of the sixties, Nouns, indeclinable and declinable in three genders and two numbers and including the adjectival type, Verbs both reflexive and non-reflexice, perfective and imperfective, Adjectives essentially hard, and Adverbs .

As for the correlation between the distribution of new words by grammatical category and the distribution of words in use in Russian in the sixties, a glance at figure three should convince you that the correlation is a striking one. The correlation is not perfect, however and I conclude that

Russian of the sixties was developing an unusually large number of new nouns and adjectives but was slow in the production of new verbs.

FIGURE 1

New words in the Russian language of the sixties according to Kotelova and Sorokin's dictionary Novyje Slova i Značenija, M., 1973

Total Entries	3170
Cross references	- 29
Asterisked	-265
Total New Words	2876

NOUNS					
M	1039				
M-ij	8	1047	masculine	54.25%	
Plural		37	plural	1.91%	
F	365				
F-ija	183	639	feminine	33.11%	
F-ost'	91				
F. adj.		9	feminine	0.47%	
N	10				
N-'e	5				
N-vo	22	130	neuter	6.74%	
N-ije	93				
Indeclinable		68	indeclinable	3.52%	
		1930		100 %	67.11% NOUNS
ADJECTIVES					
		786	hard	99.62%	
		3	soft	0.38%	
		789		100 %	27.43% ADJECTIVES
VERBS					
		97	non-reflex	74.62%	
		33	reflexive	25.38%	
		130		100 %	4.52% VERBS
ADVERBS		27	adverbs	100 %	0.94% ADVERBS
TOTAL NEW WORDS		2876			100 %

FIGURE 2

CATEGORIES		Stejnfel'dt		Kotelova and Sorokin	
COLUMNS →		1	2	3	4
1.	NOUNS	9073	37.46 %	1930	67.11 %
2.	ADJECTIVES	3750	15.48 %	789	27.43 %
3.	Numerals	79	.33 %	-	-
4.	Pronouns	65	.27 %	-	-
5.	VERBS	5998	24.74 %	130	4.52 %
6.	Participles	2023	8.36 %	-	-
7.	Verbal adverbs	1254	5.18 %	-	-
8.	ADVERBS	1665	6.88 %	27	.94 %
9.	Parenthetical words	12	.05 %	-	-
10.	Particles	64	.26 %	-	-
11.	Prepositions	71	.29 %	-	-
12.	Conjunctions	63	.26 %	-	-
13.	Interjections	107	.44 %	-	-
		24,224	100.00 %	2,876	100.00 %

Russian Word Count
Stejnfel'dt, Moskva, n.d.

Total corpus 400,000
-proper nouns 12,789
Working corpus 387,211 word uses

Individual words 24,224

FIGURE 3

New Words and Meanings
Kotelova and Sorokin
indicated by vertical columns

Russian Word Count
E. Stejnfel'dt
distribution of independent words
by category indicated by line.